

Poly 'third force' idea collapses

by Peter David

Attempts to strengthen the collective voice of the polytechnics by setting up a national association of governors collapsed last week in the face of opposition from the Committee of Directors of Polytechnics and the Council of Local Education Authorities.

Governors decided not to go ahead with the new body after representatives of only 13 out of the 30 polytechnics turned up at a seminar in London to discuss a draft constitution.

A similar meeting in February mustered substantial support and the formation of a working party to draw up a constitution. But in the intervening months both the CPD and the CLIA made it clear that they would not welcome the creation of a third force.

The CLIA declined an invitation to meet the governors' representatives and told member authorities that it would be "undesirable" to support a new association with public money.

The CDP too refused to meet members of the working party. A letter from Mr P. L. Flowerday, the committee's secretary, said: "The CDP does not wish to be associated with a sub-committee of the working party."

Chairman of the CDP, described his policy as working through quiet diplomacy and reason "rather than the adoption of challenging public postures".

But the CDP's initiative failed to satisfy advocates of the new association, who took advantage of last week's seminar to criticize the political performance of the committee.

Dr George Brown, director of NELP, said that the CDP had not been consulted by the Department of Education and Science about student quotas and other matters of major concern to the polytechnics.

It went on: "No doubt documents have gone backwards and forwards, but there has been no real voice to speak for the polytechnics at a political level before the decisions of principle have been taken. In that way the CDP, I am sorry to say, has not been at all effective."

Further and Higher Education Committee, while the CDP was reported to have told Cokes that the polytechnics favoured a move towards central control.

Mr H. E. Francis was accepted by the college council and administration. The report said the lecturers had been appointed according to proper procedures.

Union fight hard for recognition

by Judith Judd

Referenda are being held at polytechnics this week as part of a fight to gain recognition for the Government's Association of University Teachers.

The findings of the inquiry which was headed by Mr H. E. Francis were accepted by the college council and administration.

The association demands a revision of college government, the disclosure of financial information and ending of the system of determining professors' salaries by the drawing up of a professional salary scale.

Cardiff lecturers call for total college reform

by Judith Judd

Lecturers in the Cardiff branch of the Association of University Teachers have expressed grave concern about the government of University College, Cardiff.

The association demands a revision of college government, the disclosure of financial information and ending of the system of determining professors' salaries by the drawing up of a professional salary scale.

Academic job chances 'are virtually nil'

by David Walker

Job opportunities for graduates in the academic world have virtually disappeared because of spending cuts and the small number of students at tertiary level.

Grass roots contact urged for MSC

by Patricia Saminelli

The National Union of Students has urged the Manpower Services Commission to re-examine the organization and structure of its training schemes to ensure that all young people, including the unemployed, are effectively reached.

The NUS proposes that subnational powers should be devolved from the proposed regional boards to 'community forums' operating at local level.

Pressure is growing for the Manpower Services Commission to think about plans for administering the Government's new £160m-year training programme for the young unemployed.

'Think again on young jobless'

Pressure is growing for the Manpower Services Commission to think about plans for administering the Government's new £160m-year training programme for the young unemployed.

Both the Council of Local Education Authorities and the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education have said that the number of regional boards created should be limited to three.

The CLIA, too, is anxious about the remoteness of the boards the MSC hopes to establish.

The CLIA, too, is anxious about the remoteness of the boards the MSC hopes to establish. At a meeting last week with Mr Richard O'Brien, chairman of the MSC, officials argued that the area office teams created by the commission to administer the scheme should include 'link men' allocated to each local education authority.

Mrs Williams presses tertiary case

by Patricia Saminelli

Tertiary colleges are one effective response to the necessity to examine the present sixth form provision which the projected decline in the number of 16 to 18-year-olds had reduced.

She added that the tertiary college also had the advantage that academic and vocational courses, full-time and part-time, could co-exist in the same institution.

'Zionist' groups outlawed as anti-Jewish trend grows

Students at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London University, voted last week to outlaw Zionist societies as the campaign against Jewish students intensified.

This week students at Warwick University, Brighton and Newcastle polytechnics were due to vote on motions which condemned Zionism.

The NUS conference, which will be held in London on Thursday, agreed to submit a motion to the conference that "racism is not peripheral to Zionism but central and fundamental to it".

NELP staff withhold tuition

by David Walker

Social work tutors at the North East London Polytechnic have told their head of department they will not lead out the course, which began a fortnight ago.

The student, Mr Suresh Vyas, was admitted on the instructions of the polytechnic director, Dr George Brown. Earlier this summer Dr Brown was instructed by the joint committee of the three local authorities maintaining the polytechnic to close the social work training course if Mr Vyas was not admitted.

Tories stress standards

Colleges of education should emphasise on training more emphasis on numeracy and the pursuit of discipline, the Conservative Party at its annual conference in Blackpool decided this week.

The conference approved a motion when a 17-year-old representative said all students who were in a simple average to the education system would be regarded as second-rate.

Blue roses for the Red lady

Miss Sue Silpman, the Communist president of the National Union of Students, ventured into a stronghold of student conservatism on Sunday and received an enthusiastic reception.

Har message to the Cambridge University Conservative Association appeared to be that Conservatives and Communists must march forward in the cause of democracy to win.

What had she to say about the election of Sir Keith Joseph from last December's National Union of Students conference? She confided that completely.

Was not the ballot a fairer way of taking decisions than the open meeting which was open to exploitation by an unscrupulous few? Miss Silpman thought there were problems in achieving a full discussion of the issue.

Hopes for Preston in-service training

Lancashire County Council hopes to retain a substantial programme of in-service training at Preston Polytechnic, despite the Government's decision this summer that initial teacher training should be case based.

A spokesman for the council said this week it was thought that the reclamation of much of the polytechnic's site for a new shopping centre would be a sensible use of the site.

Graduate job guide

Over 2,000 employers of graduates are listed in the latest edition of the Employment and Training Careers Research, published this week by the Advisory Committee on Careers Research.

More students now joining party - Benn

Students were joining the Labour Party in ever-increasing numbers, Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, said this week.

Mr Benn compared the state of the Labour Party this year with 1968 when young activists were leaving it for community work and protest politics. The new appeal of the Labour Party rested on its ability to explain the causes of unemployment and to suggest remedies, he said.

Chemists stay out

Many fewer chemistry students are being admitted to British universities than in the late 1960s, although numbers have picked up since the nadir of 1974, Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education, said this week when she opened the centenary exhibition of the Mid-Anglia Group of the Royal Institute of Chemistry.

Two reports ask Government for more adult literacy funds

by Maggie Richards

Pressure is mounting on the Government to provide additional funds and a long-term policy for the development of adult literacy.

Two reports published this week both urge it to continue allocating specific funds for adult literacy with an annual £1m grant from the Department of Educational and Science funds in March next year.

One of the reports from the British Association of Settlements, censures the Government for its "lack of foresight" in not following up its two-year pilot training exercise with a comprehensive policy on adult literacy.

Other recommendations contained in the BAS report include the suggestion that each authority should allocate a specific amount from its budget for adult literacy and set up a separate staff and training unit. The report also emphasizes the importance of continued government funding.

Ulster to launch community action project

A three-year community action programme is to be launched by the New University of Ulster Institute of Continuing Education.

The project aims to provide educational and research assistance to community groups, and to encourage greater involvement in community affairs through the use of local radio.

Grants totalling £48,000 have been received for the project. Financed by the Ulster Institute of Continuing Education, the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, and the Northern Ireland Department of Education.

Increase found in library use

There has been a marked increase in the use of academic libraries over the past four years, according to a survey published last week by the Library Management Research Unit based at the University of Loughborough.

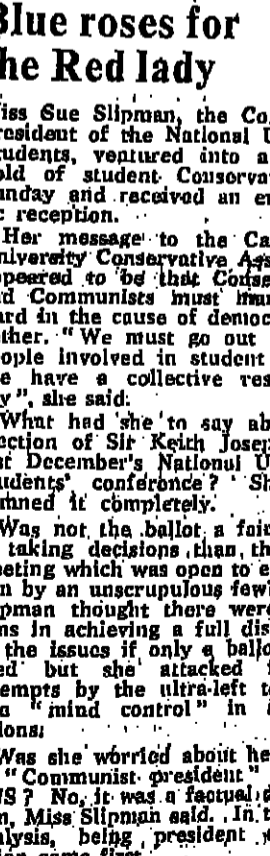
Four libraries took part in the two-day survey, which followed a detailed study of 11 libraries in 1973. In all four cases there had been a considerable increase in student use of books issued and seats occupied.



This landscape depicted in ink on paper by the 17th century Chinese artist Wang Shih-min is one of the Chinese paintings of the Ching Dynasty currently on show at the British Museum's Oriental Gallery.



Lord Justice Scarman is to succeed the late Viscount Radcliffe as chairman of the Council of Legal Education and has presided over three major inquiries, including the recent hearings into the Ulster riots and the Greenwich dispute.



Miss Sue Silpman, the Communist president of the National Union of Students, ventured into a stronghold of student conservatism on Sunday and received an enthusiastic reception.

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TEACHING THE TEACHERS

Having to lecture causes most self-doubt

Many students might be surprised to learn that lecturing, which has dominated higher education teaching for hundreds of years, causes trepidation amongst their lecturers. This is one conclusion reached by an evaluation carried out after the 1976 higher education teaching and learning course organized by the Universities of Surrey and Kent.

Whilst not losing sight of the fact that lecturing is the situation most participants had in common it would seem it is also the one about which they profess to feel the most self-doubt, the evaluation explains. One of the main reasons for this feeling is the continued use of the lecture method, despite a basic lack of belief in it.

No doubt, the 50 or so participants from science, arts and humanities disciplines attending this year's course held at Surrey University in September have scaled over the assertion of Professor Lewis Elton of the Institute of Educational Technology that lecturers were likely to remain the traditional and professional form of teaching for at least the remainder of his audience's lifetime.

The problems of self-doubt which reflects in many ways far more on the education system as a whole than on individual lecturers' abilities. It is a basic heritage of a profession which until a few years ago had no training scheme, but assumed that qualifications were sufficient guarantee of an ability to teach.

Polytechnics have been particularly active

In polytechnics and universities throughout the land new teaching methods are confronting students in lecture halls and seminar rooms for the first time. Not long ago, few of them had any teaching experience, they would have given a piece of chalk, told us up and abandoned to their devices.

PROFILE

David Dickson profiles Claude Lévi-Strauss in the first of an occasional series on French intellectuals



Figures in structured landscape—a formal study of mankind

As an anthropologist I am a relativist. I believe very strongly that the idea of unidimensional progress is meaningless, and that it is impossible to order cultures on a scale. But music is an exception. It is the only domain in which I feel there has been a definite progress—and music for me is what took place in the Western world between the seventeenth and the twentieth centuries.

My feeling is that right now, at least in what we call the human sciences, the need is to bring poetry and science together; but maybe this is just something I feel personally. The poetry to which his work bears the closest similarity is that of the French symbolists such as Verlaine, for whom the function of poetic language was not to illustrate ideas but in Leach's words "to embody an otherwise indefinable experience".

What drives Lévi-Strauss on is not, therefore, the search for an objective description of human behaviour, but more a faith in man's capacities as a rational animal, a rationality which he believes is innate in the species, and is revealed in man's attempts to communicate with each other, that is to his "culture".

Human behaviour therefore retains an element of the "natural" even though it is to be distinguished from nature as such. (Thus in Structural Anthropology he writes that "what confers upon the individual its socio-cultural character is not what it retains from nature, but rather, the essential way in which it diverges from nature").



30 medical schools run no regular programmes

Only three British medical schools run any sort of training course for their staff. Teachers at the remaining 30 can usually attend whatever short courses are put on by the parent university, though few medical schools give them much encouragement. Dr Ted Cantrell, of Southampton University medical faculty, who has been investigating the training of medical teachers for several years, asks a very plain question: why do most medical schools give their staff no training?

Patricia Santinelli

Criticism of his advice came from participants who thought that notes ought to be given after the lecture: the reverse created a passive rather than an active student. Nor were they convinced that the lecture should not be used to cover the whole syllabus. Others thought that students wanted lectures to cover the whole syllabus, since they could not be expected to read for themselves parts which had not been covered in the lecture.

Clive Cookson

properly, Dr Cantrell believes—though six consist of a two or three day introductory session, followed by a weekly series of meetings over the next three months. Cantrell and Abramsky criticized most of the courses for concentrating on teaching techniques rather than the learning processes of students and having a didactic, lecture-based approach instead of group studies.

NOTICE BOARD

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Forthcoming events
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Loughborough
Chemistry—£24,895 from the SRC for research on the synthesis of dimeric agents and into energy transfer immunosensory methods under Dr J. N. Miller...

Noticeboard is compiled by Patricia Santinelli and Mila Goldie

COURSES
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Detailed information about study leaves and courses offered by Wolskel Hull Org.

Portugal's other revolution

by Ben Pimlott
Educational technology



Portuguese Socialist Party demonstrators: media stereotypes

British media coverage of the 1974-75 Portuguese revolution was unflattering mainly for its shallowness, and a deep reluctance to break away from the traditional view of the impression generally conveyed was of a classic battle between "pluralist democracy" and "personified by Socialist Party leader Marin Soares"...

In some villages the only people who could learn how to read were the sons of the rich, because the poor were told that there wasn't any room for them in the schools. I was always very sorry I couldn't read or write, so when I had this opportunity I took it.

Education was one sphere in Portugal where the rigidity and authoritarianism and sheer neglect of the ancien régime was especially palpable; and where the reaction, after the April 25, 1974 coup, was most dramatic.

Visual history of Great Depression

This film essay 'The Great Depression' is perhaps the most technically polished and continuously interesting of the series of the University History Film Consortium's productions. If it ignores the causes of the Great Depression, it has considerable success in vividly evoking some of its effects. Like its predecessors, however, it raises difficult questions as to what historians can hope to achieve by a spell in the cutting room.

Plotting the destination of students by numbers

Bill Kirkman discusses the background to this week's publication of statistics on graduate employment

A colleague who joined my department at the beginning of the year last after he had been with me for two weeks had to be thought as we were all obsessed with statistics. It was a fair comment from anyone observing our activities at this particular time.

Statistics do not usually provoke great excitement, and it may be asked why the arrangements for publishing the annual employment and wage sheet of higher education should be thought worthy of comment. Fifteen years ago most careers advisers would probably have agreed that the statistical details were of purely domestic content, but this is certainly no longer true.

Every year, the facts about first destinations of graduates are widely reported and discussed in the newspapers and elsewhere. Interpretations (and frequently misinterpretations) are made. Conclusions are drawn about the needs of industry, the value of universities, the attitudes of the young.

Concern for natural species extends to a concern with natural communities, and Lévi-Strauss has joined the growing number of critics of modernity, with its large-scale, heavily-centralized social structures resulting in a loss of social identity on the part of individuals.

At present the world suffers not from a lack of communication, but from a frenzy of over-communication. This is what really needs to be done. The really fertile periods were those such as the eighteenth century when some communication did exist, but with a certain amount of cross-fertilization, but where there were, nevertheless, breaks due to isolation.

The author of 'US colleges offer few lessons in diversifying' (THEE, August 26), was Norman Ewanos, not Graham Collier, as stated by Mike Forsythe. Can we join Collier in making an appeal to the world of education, that the matter of this week's supplement should be high Lévi-Strauss would like it to be.

The author is lecturer in English at Sheffield University. The exhibition 'Vortex Pound' is open from October 28 to November 2.

Structured landscape The vibrant curiosity of a one-man renaissance



Ezra Pound and "VORTEX Pound" from Blast (No 1)

Ezra Pound was concerned with a very large number of magazines, whether as contributor, adviser, promoter, encourager, "foreign correspondent", "foreign editor", letter-writer, music critic, art critic, reviewer, critic, critic or just a bludgeoning, hammering conscience trying to drive them to the ditch. These directions were often also vital to the interests of many other talented writers of his time: Joyce, Eliot, Yeats, Pound, Wyndham Lewis, and William Carlos Williams, in name a few.

Thoughts like these are inspired by this excellent exhibition. There are a number, for example, of most compelling, contrasting, cunningly juxtaposed, such as "VORTEX Pound" in Blast (No. 1) and Pound's article "Vorticism" in "The Vortex Nightly-Review".

Philip Grover reviews the exhibition Pound in the Magazines at University College, London

Beaucourt, there are the grave models of excellent building". St Bernard will be mentioned again in Canto LXXXVII. In 1979, "I have given support for Sherif Mawlawi, he will quote the assistive article written by Sigiswanda Mawlawi to Piero della Francesca: Canto VIII written in the 1920s.

The display was designed by Stephen Fendorf, who has been urging us for some time—rightly, I believe—to move away from the doctrine of the poem being in the "words on the page" to seeing how much of the poem is in the "words off the page".

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Matthew Hamd
Principles and practices of solid-state circuit design are neatly summarised in this compact book, which acquaints the student and professional engineer with new circuitry, IC packages, trends and innovations. Combines many reference features with its teaching content. Autumn 1977. 263pp £14.35

WRITE FOR OUR NEW ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
brochure to Elaine Scribans at Prentice-Hall. Prices quoted may be subject to change.

The British Council has been helping medical and engineering students learn English £1m package eases changeover to English medium studies

In the rush to develop the university, improvisation is all. Practically everything—from academics' accommodation to lecture halls in student restaurants to administrative offices—is temporary. Many of the new buildings, replacing old temporary ones, are also temporary. Thus it is that the British Council's major university project has been aided, until very recently in a converted lemonade factory off the Mecca Road.

A common problem facing universities in many developing countries is that secondary school students are taught in the native tongue and then have to switch to English—especially if they are studying science subjects—when they get to university.

Early in 1975 the embryonic medical and engineering faculties at King Abdul Aziz approached the Council and asked it to provide specialised English language courses for its incoming students.

This was not the first such contact between the university and the Council. It helped recruit a large number of lecturers in 1971 to service the English-language orientation year which all students had to go through at that time.

Although successful, the scheme was short-lived. The drive for Arabisation made the year politically unattractive to the university authorities. At the same time the country's religious leaders were concerned that English-medium teaching would undermine the university's Islamic base. They pointed to the American University of Beirut in the Lebanon and the Middle East Technical University in Turkey, both of which have orientation years and teaching in English, as examples of over-Westernisation. The year was wound up in 1972.

As a result of the 1975 approach, the Council drew up a £1m Communication Skills in English package to supply equipment (both hard and soft), teachers, administrators and consultants from Britain. The package was accepted and the programme got under way in September, 1975, with just over 300 medical and engineering students.

More than 40 Council people were involved in the project: English for Special Purposes material was produced and television and sound engineers installed for monitoring the video and language laboratory work.

For 1976-77 the contract—again a turn-key operation with the Council laying on the facilities in return for a fee—was renegotiated. Its value went up to £1.3m and the number of students to 700. With the medical and engineering faculties only taking the cream of the applicants, the project prospered academically.

So much so, in fact, that the university has now decided to take it over from the Council. And that, according to Mr Richard Jarvis, Our Council Man in Jeddah, is the way it should be: "It is quite right for the university not to want the Council to become a parasite," he says.

From this year, therefore, the council involvement will begin to be phased out. The contract for 1977-78 envisages the continuation of a council officer as the project director, and the council will carry on providing consultancy services and recruiting staff. The staff, however, will now be on university, rather than council, contracts.

On top of this, the project has now left the lemonade factory for purpose-built premises on the university campus. It is planned that the new building should become the nucleus of the university's own language centre.

Already the two-year courses have been expanded to take in nursing, meteorology and applied geology students, all of whom need English for their work. With nearly 1,100 students projected for this year, the centre will be one of the most flourishing on the campus.

Mr Jarvis feels that the university may want to get it completely done by the next academic year. At that time the emphasis will be on an orderly and gradual retreat. The Council will stay with the project as long as its expertise is needed.

R & D institute aims to emphasize indigenous needs

Research activities in developing countries often bear little relationship to local needs and requirements. The projects indicate, rather, the country where the researchers were trained. In such a climate, local industry finds itself alienated from the universities and other research institutions and without the research support and back-up it so urgently needs.

The Research and Development Centre at King Abdul Aziz University was born of this realization. It emphasizes that a country's development plan cannot overlook the importance of establishing flexible institutional mechanisms that provide R & D support for local industry and help orient and mobilise local scientists and engineers to the jobs where they are most urgently needed.

In its drive for rapid development, Saudi Arabian industry is encouraged to adopt innovative and progressive thinking. The R & D Centre has responded to this challenge by establishing a Research Unit, a Management Training Unit and a General Service Unit.

The activities of the Research Unit are focused on the study of Islamic economies with the aim of organising the life of the individual

Mecca: physical and spiritual heart of Islamic learning

Ziauddin Sardar on the special significance of the Mecca campus of King Abdul Aziz University

Mecca is not just a geographical location. It is the focal point of every Muslim. A sanctuary: the past, the present and the future of the Muslim community.

At its centre is al-Masjid al-Haram, the Sacred Mosque. You walk in from any one of its many gates to come face to face with the Kaaba, the symbol of the unchangeable values of Islam.

Building a university in such an environment is no easy task. It encompasses all that is dear to the city: its tradition of learning, respect for men, nature and the environment, devotion to prayer and peace.

The Mecca campus of King Abdul Aziz University takes its inspiration from such surroundings. Situated a few kilometres from the Sacred Mosque off the Muna Road, the scholarship that thrives there is steeped in the ancient Muslim tradition of dispassionate and lengthy examination before final assessment. It avoids elevating the malicious debunking of established authorities to the level of originality; it does not mistake nihilism for intellectual vitality; its foundations are the Koran.

The Mecca campus was established in 1949 by the late King Abdul Aziz, the founder of the nation, as the College of Sharia (Muslim Law and Jurisprudence) for the training of judges and preachers. The college was modelled, like the entire educational structure in Saudi Arabia, on the Egyptian system. It was to follow the approach to the study of Islam, the traditions of such well-known institutions of Islamic learning as al-Azhar University in Cairo, the oldest university in the world; the Qurayyah University in Fez, Morocco; and al-Zeitounah College in Tunis.

Scholars from all over the world were invited to join the college. The response was predictable. The Sacred Mosque has always been a centre of religious education commanding much prestige throughout the Muslim world.

Most of the teachers came from Egypt, with some from Syria and other Arab Muslim countries. These countries still today provide most of the academic staff.

In 1965 the curriculum of the college was broadened to encompass the wider field of Islamic studies and it was subsequently renamed the College of Sharia and Islamic Studies. In 1971 the college was incorporated into King Abdul Aziz University. The move gave a further impetus to the rapid growth of the college.

Its basic aim, however, remained the same: to be a centre for the training of teachers and promulgation of Islamic law, to pursue research into the various areas of Islamic studies and to contribute to the enrichment of Islamic culture.

The College of Sharia thus became the basis of the Mecca campus of the university. Today, besides the faculty of Sharia and Islamic

studies the campus also contains a faculty of education, teacher training in Saudi Arabia began in 1931 when an elementary school was established in Mecca. The task of meeting the demands of an over-expanding education system cannot be easy. The progress has been hard and slow. The faculty of education in Mecca has played a leading part in what has been achieved. The aim is that it should continue to do so.

The Mecca campus has 3,500 students—one third of the entire student population of King Abdul Aziz University. The students come from all over the Iqiza, the western province of Saudi Arabia. A number of Muslim students come from overseas—India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Nigeria and even Britain—to learn Arabic and study Islamic law. In general, students are provided with accommodation and a monthly allowance. Students are encouraged to learn from the environment of Mecca, its rich history, its timeless values and its rugged beauty.

Teaching is based on lectures, and, in some cases, tutorials. The courses are long and intense. A thesis is awarded a four-year first degree in Sharia, Arabic language and literature and Islamic civilisation. A further three years' study leads to an MA by examination and thesis.

Mecca was the first part of King Abdul Aziz University to offer doctorates. The graduates of the faculty of Sharia and Islamic studies enjoy the status of *alims* (religious teachers or "learned men"). It is the desire to become *alims* that motivates so many foreign students to come to Mecca. There is a distinction that is achieved only by a selected few.

The faculty of education offers four-year courses leading to BEd degrees. It comprises five departments: geography, English

physics and mathematics; education and psychology; and chemistry and biology. Undergraduates also pursue specialized courses in any one department.

Women are freely admitted to the faculty of education. A decade or two ago this would not have been possible; now State education for females is a dynamic reality. In countries where other educational institutions the Mecca campus has separate facilities for female students. It is emphasized that the female education that is introduced is of a type compatible with the country's religious position and Arab tradition.

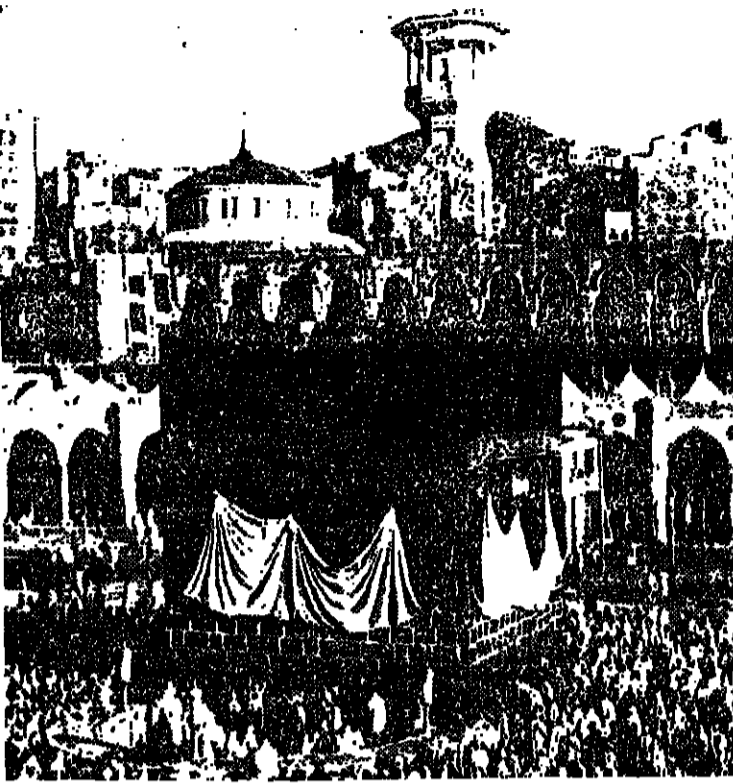
This April the faculty of education hosted the First World Conference on Muslim Education. The conference was a huge success and concluded with the establishment of a permanent World Centre for Muslim Education. At present the centre is in an embryonic stage. It is hoped that it will begin operation within a year.

Under the leadership of Dr Jaffer Sallabegh (a mechanical engineer by training), the deputy Chancellor of King Abdul Aziz University in charge of the Mecca campus, the number of students and staff is growing rapidly.

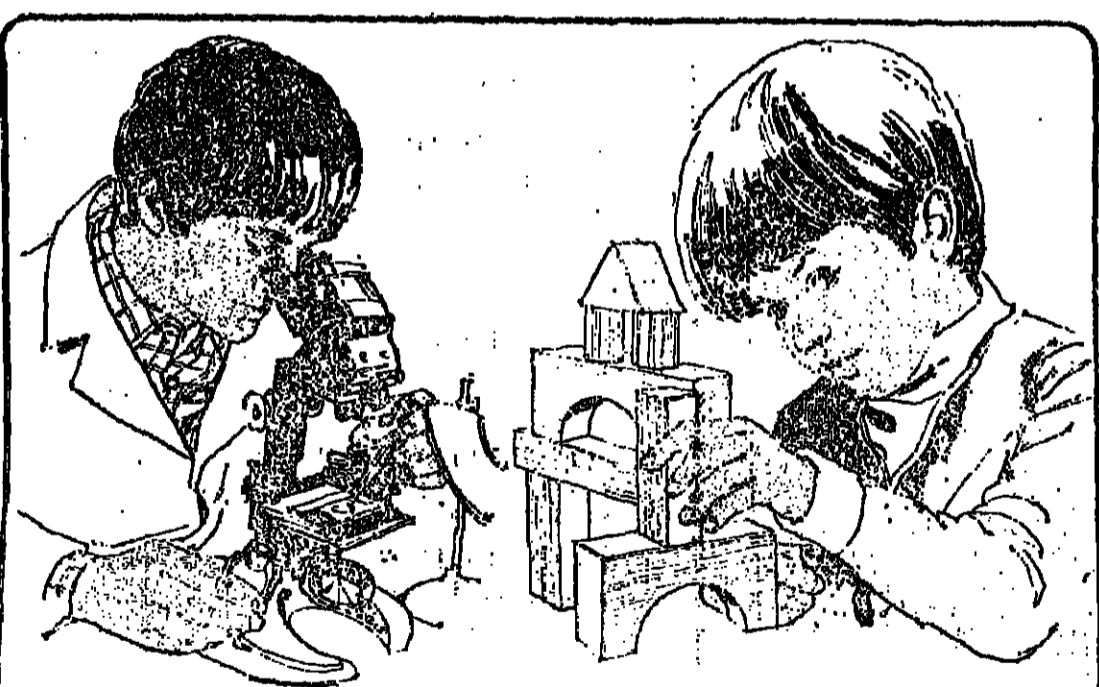
He has attracted to the campus such scholars as Shaikh Muhammad Mutawalli Sha'ravi, the charismatic Egyptian Minister for Religious Affairs, and Shaikh Muhammad Outh, whose elder brother Syed Outh, the man of letters, was executed by the Nasser regime in 1966, a crime which shook the entire Muslim world and liberal opinion everywhere. Shaikh Muhammad Outh's best known book, *Islam: the Mistunderstood Religion*, has been translated into many languages. Another distinguished scholar based on the Mecca campus is Shaikh Muhammad Al-Mubarak, the former Minister of Religious Affairs in Syria.

Plans for the development of the Mecca campus indeed for the autonomous University of Mecca are now at an advanced stage. The new university of Mecca will be a model of Islamic learning, inspiring the educational institutions of the entire Muslim world. It is important to bear in mind that King Abdul Aziz University unlike other universities in the Arab world, is not seeking to reinvent the traditional Muslim system of learning to an inferior position, or even to isolate its subject matter to a fixed part of the syllabus. On the contrary, it is seeking to embrace the whole of the subject and new disciplines, as well as more established ones, in an Islamic mould.

As such, the Islamic outlook of the Mecca University will be reflected not only in its approach to various subjects—science, technology, architecture, the social sciences and so on—but also in its immediate physical and social environment. In the next few years, the over 100,000 students of Mecca will be focused on the glowing University of Mecca.



The Kaaba in the Sacred Mosque



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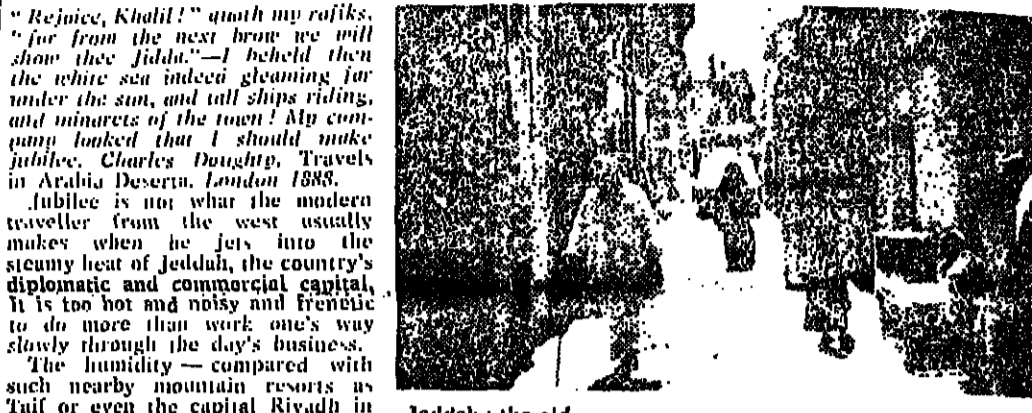
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John Beale, Director of Education, Education Department, Princess House, Princess Way, Swansea.

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